



Animal Bites and Quarantine

Animal bites, especially dog, cat, and ferret bites are a serious public health problem. Bites can result in psychological trauma, transmission of various diseases including rabies, localized infection of the bite wound, permanent physical scarring or disfigurement and death. This Policy is directed by Colorado Rabies Control Statutes 25-4-601et. seq C.R.S. 1973 as amended and Centennial Municipal Code (CMC) § 7-7-310 Reporting Animal Bites and Confinement. These laws mandate the reporting of animal bites and quarantine of biting dogs, cats, and ferrets in an effort to eliminate the risk of rabies virus transmission.

Requirement to Report and Quarantine

In accordance with CMC § 7-7-310 the owner or keeper of any domesticated animal that has bitten a person so as to cause a break in the skin shall immediately advise Centennial Animal Services of the bite. The biting animal shall be immediately confined for a period of 10—days or as otherwise advised by CAS. If deemed appropriate by CAS the confinement may take place at the owner's residence. If CAS determines that the owner's home is not adequate, confinement will be ordered to occur at the animal shelter, a veterinary hospital, or boarding facility. Cost of confinement shall be at the sole expense of the owner.

During the Quarantine period the biting animal must:

- ***Be confined to the property and isolated from people and animals that do not reside at the quarantine location***
- ***Not leave the location of quarantine except to receive emergency veterinarian treatment***
- ***Be kept inside the home, garage, or other approved containment and only allowed outside when under the direct supervision of the owner or another responsible party that is able to ensure the animal will not violate this policy***
- ***May NOT be vaccinated***

While the animal is under quarantine the owner or other responsible party will monitor the animal for any signs or symptoms of the rabies virus. Symptoms of rabies begin with nonspecific behavioral changes, such as reduced appetite, irritability, hyper-excitability, aggression, loss of coordination, and hyper-salivation followed by progressive paralysis and death. Death usually occurs within 10—days of symptom onset. If any of these symptoms are observed or suspected the owner must **immediately** notify CAS and contact a licensed veterinarian to arrange for examination.

This 10-day quarantine period must be employed whenever possible. The only exception is euthanasia and testing which is only recommended in the following situations:

- ***The animal is injured or terminally ill and will not survive or it would be inhumane to keep it alive***
- ***The animal cannot be safely confined because it is unmanageable or feral***
- ***The animal is exhibiting signs and symptoms of a neurological illness consistent with rabies, with no other known cause***
- ***The animal dies for any reason during the observation period***

If euthanasia and testing may be recommended the owner must immediately contact CAS for further instructions. Euthanasia, transportation, and testing cost will be at the sole expense of the owner.

Owner/Keeper—Complete Below Section and Immediately Return to CAS

By signing this document I acknowledge that I have read and understand the quarantine requirements and agree to comply. **I understand that the quarantine animal is only released from quarantine by an Officer of Centennial Animal Services. I must follow all Quarantine Requirements until my animal has been released by an Officer. Animal may NOT be vaccinated during quarantine period.**

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address of Quarantine: _____

For CAS Use Only

Fax: _____ Personal Delivery: _____ Posted: _____ Mail: _____

Officer Name: _____ Officer #: _____

White Copy—CAS

Yellow Copy—Owner/Keeper